

Application No.: 10/764,847
Amendment dated: July 13, 2005
Reply to Office action of 04/13/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4(Canceled).

5(Currently amended). A press felt for papermaking ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, wherein said ~~±~~ three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the machine contacting surface side relative to said base body.

6(Currently amended). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in ~~claim 2, wherein said 1 three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the machine contacting surface side relative to said base body~~ claim 5, wherein said connecting fibers are monofilament fibers.

7(Currently amended). A press felt for papermaking ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising a base body and a fibrous

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assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said press felt having at least two base bodies, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided between two of said base bodies and incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface.

8(Canceled).

9(Currently amended). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 5, wherein said fibrous assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

10(Canceled).

11(Currently amended). A press felt for papermaking ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are integrated by

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needle punching, the density of said three-dimensional knitted fabric being in the range from 0.1 g/cm³ to 0.4 g/cm³ with the fibers of said fibrous assembly having entered said three-dimensional knitted fabric as a result of needle punching.

12-15(Canceled).

16(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 6, wherein said fibrous assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

17(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 7, wherein said fibrous assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and one of said base bodies.

18(New). A press felt for papermaking comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and at least two three-dimensional knitted fabrics, each three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying knitted layers connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabrics being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, and said base body being provided between two of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics.

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19(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 5, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of said three-dimensional knitted fabric is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

20(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 6, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of said three-dimensional knitted fabric is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

21(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 7, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of said three-dimensional knitted fabric is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

22(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 9, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of said three-dimensional knitted fabric is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

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23(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 11, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric has openings surrounded by fibers, said knitted fabric has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of said three-dimensional knitted fabric is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

24(new). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics between which the base body is provided has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of each of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.